



does not follow consecutively from an immediately preceding decoded reference frame.

8. An encoded video signal wherein for each picture that forms a reference picture for the temporal prediction of another picture, an indicator is associated with each such reference picture indicating the temporal order of the reference pictures in the encoded video stream.

9. A video encoder comprising an input for receiving a video signal representing a sequence of pictures and for generating encoded pictures, said encoder being arranged to employ both non-temporal prediction and temporal prediction, wherein the encoder is arranged, for each picture that forms a reference picture for the temporal prediction of another picture, to associate with each reference picture an indicator indicating the temporal order of the reference picture in the encoded video signal relative to other reference pictures in the encoded video signal.

10. A video encoder according to claim 9 further comprising means for incrementing the indicator each time a reference picture is encoded.

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11. A video decoder comprising an input for receiving an encoded video signal representing a sequence of pictures, a decoder for decoding each received picture, the decoder being arranged to examine for each picture to be decoded that forms a reference picture for another picture an indicator representing the temporal order of a reference frame and, when the indicator does not follow consecutively from an immediately preceding decoded reference frame, to detect a lost reference frame.

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12. A portable radio communications device including an encoder according to claim 9 or 10 and/or a decoder according to claim 11.

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